



Arizona Registrar of Contractors

Message from Israel G. Torres, Director

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Effective fight against unlicensed contracting requires proactive, statewide approach

As the dynamic construction industry continues to flourish in Arizona, almost every licensed contractor I meet points out that there is more contracting to be done than there are hands to do it. From Yuma to Bullhead City, Flagstaff to Douglas - the commercial and residential construction markets are **booming**.

The downside of this robust climate is the opportunity it creates for unlicensed contractors to take advantage of consumers who are eager to get their home construction, repair or remodeling projects completed, but may not be knowledgeable about the importance and benefits of hiring Arizona-licensed contractors.

In light of this, the ROC is working statewide with industry and consumers to increase the agency's presence with respect to unlicensed activities and to educate the public about why it is in their best interest to hire properly licensed contractors for jobs that cost \$750 or more or that require a building permit.

The ROC's Special Investigative Operations Unit has spanned the state this year, conducting three- and four-day unlicensed contracting undercover stings and neighborhood unlicensed sweeps.

The agency's sting operations target known unlicensed contractors, who are contacted by undercover ROC investigators and provide bids on jobs that require a license. Neighborhood sweeps focus on a particular geographic area - ROC teams move through the designated area, stopping at each job site to ensure that contractors are licensed and to gather information about unlicensed activities in the area.

The ROC has conducted special operations in the following communities so far this year:

Neighborhood unlicensed contracting sweeps

- Arizona City - 160 job sites visited; 112 violations
- Show Low - 41 job sites visited; 22 violations
- Sun City - 116 job sites visited; 60 violations
- Tucson (nine square miles in central Tucson) - 66 job sites visited; 42 violations
- Phoenix (six square miles in west central Phoenix) - 36 job sites visited; 19 violations

Unlicensed contracting undercover sting operations

- Bullhead City - 17 unlicensed contractors cited; eight criminal citations and seven civil citations
- Prescott - 11 unlicensed contractors cited, with criminal charges pending

I'd like to extend my thanks to the contractor associations and individuals

Investigations Update

Scam Alert for Yuma Area

7-11-05: Yuma homeowners are advised to be on the lookout for an unlicensed contractor posing as a licensed contractor who has scammed Yuma homeowners out of nearly \$125,000. Wesley Yowell of Wesbuilt Construction, posing as Morgan Development, has five incidents in which he contracted without a license and performed shoddy and unfinished projects that proved to be very costly for his victims. Yowell's latest victim hired him to build a patio covering, which was left unfinished.



Flagstaff business owner out \$1,200

7-11-05: Flagstaff residents are warned not to do business with an unlicensed contractor who has scammed a local business owner out of more than \$1,000. Scott Mefford has a complaint against him with the ROC for contracting without a license to install a tile floor in a restaurant. Mefford demanded an advance payment from the victim, totaling more than \$1,200.

Protect yourself against unlicensed contracting scams!

To report possible fraudulent home improvement activities or if you have been approached door-to-door by someone claiming to be a contractor, contact the ROC at 602-542-1525 or toll-free outside Maricopa County at 888-271-9286, or visit

www.azroc.gov. Check the company's license status and report the company to the agency if you suspect a scam.

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throughout Arizona who have assisted the ROC in selecting target areas for sweeps and locating bait houses for the agency's sting operations. Without assistance from local homeowners and industry representatives, the ROC's proactive enforcement efforts would not have had such a profound impact this year. For more information about how to get involved in the prevention of unlicensed contracting, contact the ROC at 602-542-1525, ext. 7505 or 1-888-271-9286, ext. 7505.



Israel G. Torres, Director

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Contractors throughout Arizona to be recognized for community service

The licensed contracting industry does more than build the neighborhoods, retail centers and public facilities we enjoy daily; it also donates countless hours of time and resources to strengthen our communities.

Twenty projects representing the work of licensed contractors, contractor associations, subcontractors and corporate associates from northern, central and southern Arizona have been nominated for the second annual Building Blocks of the Community awards. Presented by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC) Industry Advisory Council (IAC), the awards recognize construction industry members that have donated time, labor, materials and funds to projects that benefit Arizonans in need. In 2004, this event and awards program was the first of its kind nationally, bringing together all trades and types of contractors to celebrate the generous works of industry members.



The IAC will name the Building Blocks of the Community winners at an awards banquet Aug. 20 at The Wigwam Resort & Golf Club in Litchfield Park. The premier sponsor of the event is the Associated Minority Contractors of America-Phoenix Chapter. Other sponsors include the American Subcontractors Association of Arizona, Inc., Hunt Construction Group, Builders' Book Depot/CASA Fenix Enterprises, Arizona Masonry Guild and American Builder Magazine.

The Building Blocks of the Community nominees and projects are:

- Achilles Air Conditioning Systems Inc., Arizona Builders Alliance Volunteer Day at House of Neighborly Service (Tucson)
- Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Arizona Chapter, Military Care Packages (Phoenix)
- Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Arizona Chapter, Project Cool Aid (Phoenix)
- Arizona Builders Alliance-Southern Division Chapter, House of Neighborly Service (Tucson)
- Arizona Masonry Guild/Arizona Masonry Contractors Association, Sunshine Acres Children's Home Girls Dormitory (Phoenix)
- Arizona Roofing Contractors Association, Raising the Roof for Our Youth Charity Bowling Tournaments (Phoenix)
- Arizona Roofing Contractors Association, Christmas in April (Phoenix)
- D.R. Horton Homes, Diaper Drive Duty (Tucson)
- hardison/downey construction inc., Assistance League of Phoenix Philanthropic Center (Phoenix)
- HomCo Ace Home Centers, Various community service projects (Flagstaff)

- Hunt-Russell-Alvarado and Hunt Construction Group, Crockett Elementary School (Phoenix)
- Hunt Construction Group, Habitat for Humanity (Phoenix)
- iMiX Group LLC, Town of Buckeye Skate Park (Glendale)
- KGUN 9 Television, Building Good News (Tucson)
- Mohave Valley Contractors Association Inc., Academy of Building Industries (Fort Mohave)
- Sahara Inc., Holiday Toy Drive (Tempe)
- Sahara Inc., Back to School Drive (Tempe)
- Southern Arizona Home Builders Association, Chipping Away at Arthritis: SAHBA/Lute Olson Golf Tournament (Tucson)
- Sturgeon Electric Company Inc., Salvation Army (Tempe)
- US Home Lennar Corporation, Swing for Life (Tucson)

In its second year, the Building Blocks of the Community awards will showcase these outstanding projects and the contributions by licensed contractors to communities across the state. For more details about the event or for ticket information, call 602-542-1525, ext. 7115 or toll-free statewide at 1-888-271-9286, ext. 7115.

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Get one-on-one licensing assistance through ROC's Small Business Advocate

Are you seeking a contractor's license but are not quite sure about the process? Or perhaps you have a license for your small contracting business but are interested in changing the scope of the services you provide. Tackling these tasks can be particularly daunting when you are a small business contractor with limited time and plenty of work to do.

The ROC invites all aspiring and new contractors to take advantage of the Small Business Advocate (SBA) program, with assistance available via telephone, e-mail or in person in Phoenix and Tucson. To help time-strapped small business owners, the SBA has provided assistance to more than 4,000 customers in the past year and a half to ensure that applicants have the information they need to complete the required forms accurately and in a timely manner, to answer questions about the licensing process, and to help make the entire experience hassle-free.



In addition to personalized assistance, the program provides regularly scheduled instructional classes that explain licensing requirements, forms and the overall process. These free classes provide information on how to fill out the application thoroughly, what documentation is necessary for the application, and how to locate sources for the necessary documents. The seminars demonstrate how to compile all of the information in the application package.

For statewide SBA contact information, visit www.azroc.gov/l_sba.html. Help the ROC help you by contacting the program today!

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National conference brings together construction regulators, industry and educators



As advances in technology and communication seem to continue to "shrink" the world we live in, the construction industry is no exception. Now more than ever, sharing information and resources across state borders and nationwide is critical to the success of the contracting trades.

Keeping this in mind, the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) is proud to present its 43rd Annual Conference, set for Sept. 27-30, 2005, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The conference includes topics of interest to contractors, construction testing and training professionals and state regulators alike. Sessions will incorporate information about the development of a national contractor examination, advances in online services to licensees and enforcement against unlicensed contracting, as well as current challenges like residential general liability insurance and homeowner/contractor conflict resolution.

This gathering also offers attendees the opportunity to meet regulatory officials from all areas of the U.S., from Hawaii to Louisiana to Rhode Island and everywhere in between, and to learn how licensing, regulation and other requirements differ from state to state.

To learn more about participating in a conference session or attending this year's event, visit www.nascla.org/conference.htm or call 480-948-3363.

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